

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:254

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2008

TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN

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Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large number of persons including women and children are subject to trafficking into India from neighbouring countries and being pushed into different illegal practices;
- (b) if so, the details of cases reported during each of the last three years and the current year;
- (c) whether the CBI has recently charge-sheeted officials of Delhi Regional Passport Office in connection with human trafficking racket;
- (d) if so, the details thereof along with their modus operandi ;
- (e) the details of monitoring/coordinating mechanism available with the Government to check human trafficking in the country; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government to check human trafficking including women and children and to repatriate and rehabilitate such persons?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (f): A Statement in this regard is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.254 FOR 16.12.2008 REGARDING "TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN AND CHILDREN"

(a) & (b): There is no such information available with the Government. However, as per the cases reported to the National Crime Records Bureau a total of 6402, 5096 and 4087 cases of trafficking related offences were reported in the country during the years 2005, 2006 and 2007 respectively.

(c) & (d): The CBI has filed charge-sheets in the Court of Special Judge, CBI, New Delhi, in 2008 against the officials of Regional Passport Office, Delhi and other private persons for the issue of passports where photographs of different persons were used. The modus operandi for obtaining passports was to submit an application to obtain Addl. Passport Booklet on the basis of existing passport and in the application, the photograph of a different person used to be affixed, whereas personal particulars of the passport holder used to remain the same. Against one passport, several Addl. Passport Booklets were shown to have been issued and several persons had also undertaken journeys on such passports.

(e) & (f): 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects and the State Governments are primarily responsible for preventing and combating the crime of human trafficking. However, the Central Government has taken several initiatives for combating trafficking of women and children for commercial sexual exploitation, which, inter-alia, include :-

1. In the Ministry of Women and Child Development a Central Advisory Committee (CAC) on implementation of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act (ITP) has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, MWCD, which has representatives from States as well as Central Organizations and NGOs etc. and holds quarterly meetings.

2. The Ministry of Home Affairs has set up a Nodal Cell to coordinate matters relating to trafficking in human beings between the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and other related Ministries etc. It has also issued an advisory dated 5th July, 2006 to all the State/Union Territory Governments in this regard.

3. A project of UNODC with the GOI has been initiated in five states of the country in 2006 to work towards prevention of trafficking of persons into, in and from India by strengthening the capacity of Indian law enforcement machinery and raising their awareness in respect of trafficking whereby Anti-Human Trafficking Units have been established in these States.

4. The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) has prepared a training manual on "Human Trafficking Handbook for Investigators" for use in the Police Training Institutes. BPR&D is organizing regional anti-trafficking workshops for sensitizing police personnel towards the safety and security of women. Several such workshops have been held in various cities till date.

5. A Regional Task Force has been set up for implementation of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution and a draft Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) has been circulated among all Members States. The comments/views of some of the Member States are still awaited on the proposed SOP.
6. Besides the MWCD also runs Shelter homes, such as Short Stay Homes (more than 300) Swadhar Homes (about 220) for women in difficult circumstances. These cater to trafficked women/girls rescued or runaway from brothels or other places, and also provides for women/girls victims of sexual crimes who are disowned by family or who do not want to go back to respective family for various reasons.
7. A new scheme for prevention of trafficking by the name UJJAWALA has been launched for preventive activities and for rescue and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking for commercial sexual exploitation with the setting up of special homes and provision of rescue cost, counseling, medical care, legal aid, etc.
8. There are several amendments proposed in the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 to widen its scope, focus on traffickers and make punishments more stringent for them.
9. Further the Ministry of Women and Child Development in collaboration with the National Institute of Public Co-operation and Child Development (NIPCCD) and UNICEF has developed several manuals for training of stakeholders such as 'Judicial Handbook on Combating Trafficking of Women and Children for Commercial Sexual Exploitation' and others.